AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A method for detecting cytochrome c in a given biological sample, comprising : - adding to said sample an efficient amount of two redox couples allowing for a cycling oxido-reduction of cytochrome c, said couples comprising an oxidizing agent consisting of cytochrome c oxidase enzyme and a reducing agent specific for cytochrome c with a reduced co-factor ; - measuring, by a biophysical system depending on the'co- factor and allowing to distinguish the co-factor oxidized form from the reduced form, the oxidation of the co- factor which is oxidized during said cycling redox reaction; the amount of the co-factor oxidized form being correlated to the concentration of cytochrome c in the sample.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said measurement is compared to measurements performed with standard cytochrome c.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the reducing agent is NADH-cytochrome c reductase or NADPH-cytochrome c reductase and the reduced co-factor is NADH or NADPH respectively.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the co-factor is detected by absorption spectrophotometry at 340 nm.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein said agents are~~, for example but not limited to,~~ under liquid, dried or lyophilised form and obtained by purification of recombinant or natural compounds or by chemical synthesis.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~, optimized for any new screening protocol or adaptaded to any existing screening procedure.

7. (Original) A kit for detecting cytochrome c in sample to be tested, comprising two redox couples for a cycling oxido-reduction of cytochrome c, said couples comprising an oxidizing agent consisting of cytochrome c oxidase enzyme and a reducing agent specific for cytochrome c with a reduced co-factor.

8. (Original) The kit of claim 7, wherein the reducing agent is NADH-cytochrome c reductase and the co-factor is NADH.

9. (Original) The kit of claim 7, wherein the reducing agent is NADPH-cytochrome c reductase and the co-factor is NADPH.

10. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 9~~, further comprising cytochrome c as a reference standard.

11. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 10~~, further comprising a buffer.

12. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 11~~, wherein said agents are~~, for example but not limited to,~~ under liquid, dried or lyophilised. form, and

obtained by purification of recombinant' or natural compounds or by chemical synthesis.

13. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 12~~, defined for laboratory research only.

14. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 12~~, defined for diagnostic use.

15. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 14~~, optimized ~~for any format of container, for example but not limited to,~~ 96-well microplates, 384-well microplates, 1 mL cuvettes.

16. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 15~~, optimized for detecting cytochrome c in mitochondrial supernatants.

17. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 15~~, optimized for detecting cytochrome c in cytosol extracts.

18. (Currently Amended) The kit of ~~any of claims~~ claim 7 ~~to 15~~, optimized for detecting cytochrome c in any other biological sample expected to contain cytochrome c.

19. (Original) The kit of claim 18, with reagents supplied for the preparation of mitochondrial and/or cytosolic fractions.

20. (Original) The kit of claim 19, with methodology for the preparation of mitochondrial and/or cytosolic fractions.